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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0000  
INFO CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS BEIJING 016516

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DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/CM, DS/P/PL-MIKE VANBUSKIRK, S/CT-  
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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KOLY](#) [ASEC](#) [CH](#)  
SUBJECT: CODEL STEVENS AND LIU QI DISCUSS BEIJING OLYMPIC  
PREPARATIONS

THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE  
HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

SUMMARY  
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¶1. (SBU) CODEL STEVENS, ACCOMPANIED BY THE AMBASSADOR,  
MET WITH BEIJING PARTY SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT OF THE  
BEIJING ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE 29TH OLYMPIAD  
GAMES (BOCOG) LIU QI TO DISCUSS OLYMPIC PREPARATIONS,  
INCLUDING SECURITY, VENUE CONSTRUCTION, TRAFFIC  
MANAGEMENT, AIR QUALITY, MEDIA, YOUTH EDUCATION AND  
TICKET SALES. END SUMMARY.

SECURITY  
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¶2. (SBU) CODEL STEVENS, ACCOMPANIED BY THE AMBASSADOR,  
VISITED THE OLYMPIC NATIONAL STADIUM (ALSO KNOWN AS  
THE BIRD'S NEST) AND MET WITH BEIJING PARTY SECRETARY  
LIU QI ON AUGUST 10. SENATOR TED STEVENS NOTED, GIVEN  
HIS LONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT, THAT  
HE IS ANXIOUS TO HELP IN ANY WAY TO ENSURE THAT THE  
BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES WILL BE THE BEST THE WORLD HAS  
EVER SEEN. SENATOR STEVENS POINTED TO THE INCREASED  
TERRORISM THREAT DURING THE SALT LAKE CITY GAMES AS A  
REASON FOR CHINA TO REMEMBER THE COMMITMENT BY  
TERRORISTS TO DO HARM DURING SUCH A HIGH-PROFILE  
EVENT. HE NOTED SECURITY MEASURES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT  
HAD TAKEN DURING THE SALT LAKE CITY GAMES. OBSERVING  
THAT A POSSIBLE ONE-THIRD OF ALL VISITORS TO THE  
BEIJING OLYMPICS COULD BE AMERICAN, SENATOR STEVENS  
ENCOURAGED THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO CALL ON THE U.S.  
GOVERNMENT IF THERE IS ANYTHING THE UNITED STATES CAN  
DO TO ASSIST CHINA IN PROTECTING AMERICAN AND CHINESE  
CITIZENS AND OTHERS FROM TERRORISM.

VENUE CONSTRUCTION AND USAGE  
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¶3. (U) SENATOR PATTY MURRAY RECALLED THE EXCITEMENT  
THAT HAD SURROUNDED CHINA'S SELECTION AS HOST COUNTRY  
FOR THE 2008 SUMMER GAMES AND SAID 2008 WILL BE A  
TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THE WORLD WHAT CHINA  
HAS TO OFFER. SHE NOTED THAT MANY OF HER CONSTITUENTS  
ARE INTERESTED IN HEARING ABOUT THE VENUE SITES AND

## TRANSPORTATION PLANS.

14. (U) LIU RESPONDED THAT THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME FOR CHINA TO HOST AN OLYMPIC GAMES. ORGANIZERS HAVE VISITED ATHENS, SYDNEY AND SALT LAKE CITY TO LEARN FROM PREVIOUS HOST CITIES. CHINA HAS DONE A THOROUGH STUDY OF PREVIOUS GAMES TO LEARN FROM THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS WELL AS AVOID THEIR MISTAKES. ONE OF THE LESSONS LEARNED WAS THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING FOR VENUE UTILIZATION AFTER THE OLYMPIAD. LIU REPORTED THAT THERE WOULD BE 37 VENUES CONSTRUCTED FOR THE GAMES, 31 IN BEIJING AND SIX IN THE OTHER CITIES (QINGDAO, QINGHUANGDAO, SHANGHAI, SHENYANG, TIANJIN

AND HONG KONG). OF THE BEIJING VENUES, 11 ARE NEW CONSTRUCTIONS, INCLUDING FOUR BUILT ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES TO BE USED FOR COLLEGIATE SPORTS AFTER THE GAMES. THE REST OF THE VENUES ARE TEMPORARY STRUCTURES OR REFURBISHED SPORTS SITES. SOME OF THE VENUES, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL AQUATIC CENTER (ALSO KNOWN AS THE WATER CUBE), WILL BECOME PUBLIC RECREATIONAL SPACES AFTER THE GAMES, HE SAID.

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

15. (U) LIU SAID TRAFFIC JAMS ARE PREVALENT IN BEIJING, BUT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING A TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW DURING THE GAMES. BEIJING'S TRAFFIC PROBLEMS ORIGINATED WITH ITS INITIAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND THE CITY'S MUNICIPAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM. HOWEVER, BY 2008, THE BEIJING GOVERNMENT PLANS TO OPERATE 280 KILOMETERS OF METRO LINES AND TO IMPLEMENT A STRATEGY TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. THE PLAN WILL ENCOURAGE CITIZENS TO LEAVE PRIVATE VEHICLES AT HOME DURING THE WORK WEEK AND TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DURING RUSH HOUR. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS INVESTED HEAVILY IN

A MASTER PLAN FOR BEIJING TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAYS, EXPRESSWAYS AND INTER-CITY ROADWAYS. THE BEIJING GOVERNMENT PLANS ON USING MODERN TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE USE OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE TRAFFIC SYSTEM.

16. (U) LIU SAID THAT AN ADDITIONAL 1,000 SMALL PERSONAL VEHICLES ARE SOLD EVERY DAY AND THE BEIJING GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO IMPROVE CAR SALES MANAGEMENT, BUT BEIJING ALREADY HAS A PLAN TO MONITOR AND LESSEN AUTO EMISSIONS. LIU ADDED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) HAS CONFIRMED HIS ASSESSMENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO TRAFFIC PROBLEMS DURING THE 2008 GAMES. DURING THE GAMES, THERE WILL BE LANES RESTRICTED FOR OLYMPIC USE, RESTRICTIONS ON PERSONAL VEHICLE USAGE AND A PUSH TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. ATHLETES, SPORTS OFFICIALS, AND TOURISTS WILL HAVE NO TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS, LIU STATED.

## AIR QUALITY

17. (U) SENATOR NORM COLEMAN REMARKED THAT IT WOULD BE A PITY FOR BEIJING'S BEAUTIFUL SCENERY TO BE OBSCURED BY AIR POLLUTION AND INQUIRED WHAT THE CITY IS DOING TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT. LIU AGREED THAT AIR QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WILL BE CRITICAL TO A SUCCESSFUL OLYMPICS. THE BEIJING GOVERNMENT HAS PREPARED 12 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS SINCE 1998 TO PROMOTE AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT. LIU SUGGESTED THAT 65 PERCENT OF THE DAYS IN 2006 WOULD HAVE GOOD AIR QUALITY, UP ONE PERCENT FROM 2005. A DROUGHT IN MONGOLIA AND INNER MONGOLIA THAT CAUSED MORE FREQUENT SANDSTORMS TO BLOW INTO BEIJING HAD PREVENTED MORE DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT.

18. (U) THERE ARE THREE PARTS TO BEIJING'S AIR QUALITY

IMPROVEMENT PLAN. THE FIRST IS TO INCREASE INTERNAL CONTROLS OVER THE 9000-PLUS CONSTRUCTION SITES IN AND AROUND BEIJING, ENSURING THERE WILL BE LESS DUST POLLUTION BY 2008. SECOND, INDUSTRIAL AND COAL BURNING ENTERPRISES ARE BEING MOVED OUTSIDE THE CITY, MAKING ROOM FOR HIGH-TECH COMPANIES, WHICH WILL HELP LESSEN POLLUTION. LIU USED THE EXAMPLE OF THE CAPITAL IRON AND STEEL FACTORY, WHICH HAS AN ANNUAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF EIGHT MILLION TONS OF STEEL, BEING MOVED FROM BEIJING TO BOHAI TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINT. THIRD, BEIJING IS ENCOURAGING ENERGY CONSERVATION. IN 2006, BEIJING IS EXPECTED TO USE 4.2 BILLION CUBIC METERS OF NATURAL GAS INSTEAD OF COAL, WHICH WILL HELP REDUCE SULFUR DIOXIDE EMISSIONS. HE NOTED THAT THIS IS TEN TIMES LESS COAL THAN WAS USED LAST YEAR. BEIJING CURRENTLY ADHERES TO EUROPE 3 CAR EMISSION STANDARDS AND MAY MOVE TO EUROPE 4 STANDARDS BY 2008.

#### MEDIA PARTICIPATION

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¶9. (U) SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER COMMENTED THAT THE OLYMPICS WILL BE A WONDERFUL TIME TO SHOW THE REST OF THE WORLD NOT JUST BEIJING BUT ALL OF CHINA. HE ADDED THAT CHINA MAY BE SURPRISED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF MEDIA-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUALS WHO COME TO CHINA TO COVER THE GAMES. HE URGED THAT THEY BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE FREELY.

#### PUBLIC EDUCATION

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¶10. (U) LIU RESPONDED THAT WITH AN ESTIMATED 500,000 FOREIGN SPECTATORS EXPECTED IN 2008, THE OLYMPICS ARE INDEED CHINA'S OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE ITS LONG HISTORY, DYNAMIC CIVILIZATION AND BEAUTIFUL SCENERY. THE GAMES WILL ALSO BE A CHANCE TO COMBINE EASTERN AND WESTERN CULTURE. WHILE THE OLYMPICS ORIGINATED IN GREECE, THE GAMES ARE NOW BEING HELD IN ASIA.

¶11. (U) BOCOG HAS DEVELOPED A YOUTH OLYMPIC EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT WILL INVOLVE 400 MILLION CHILDREN, ACCORDING TO LIU. THE GOAL OF THE CAMPAIGN IS TO SPREAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT. THIS WILL BE THE BEST POPULARIZATION CAMPAIGN THE OLYMPIC GAMES

HAVE EVER SEEN, LIU PREDICTED. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED AMONG ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS. TEXTBOOKS HAVE ALSO BEEN DEVELOPED FOR STUDENTS FROM THE ELEMENTARY THROUGH UNIVERSITY LEVELS, HE SAID.

#### TICKET DISTRIBUTION

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¶12. (U) LIU ANSWERED SENATOR MARK DAYTON'S QUESTION REGARDING TICKET DISTRIBUTION BY STATING THAT THERE WILL BE 900 MILLION TICKETS AVAILABLE, OF WHICH 700 MILLION WILL BE SOLD AND DISTRIBUTED THROUGH VARIOUS COUNTRIES, NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES. AFTER IOC'S APPROVAL OF BOCOG'S TICKET DISTRIBUTION PLAN IN THE LATTER HALF OF 2006, BOCOG EXPECTS TO MAKE TICKETS AVAILABLE TO ITS PURCHASE PRIORITY CLIENTS (I.E. OLYMPIC SPONSORS AND OTHER OLYMPIC-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS). TICKET SALES TO THE PUBLIC WILL BEGIN IN 2007.

#### LOOKING TO 2008

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¶13. (U) SENATOR STEVENS STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO COORDINATE WITH CHINA ON LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE OLYMPICS IN ATLANTA AND SALT LAKE CITY. HE COMPLIMENTED LIU ON CHINA'S PROGRESS ON OLYMPIC PREPARATIONS, REMARKING THAT CHINA'S PREPARATIONS ARE ADVANCED COMPARED TO OTHER HOST COUNTRIES DURING THE SAME PERIOD. HE ADDED THAT

DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VICE CHAIRMAN AND  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE 10TH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S

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CONGRESS (NPC) SHENG HUAREN, THEY HAD DISCUSSED  
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE ATHENS OLYMPICS. DURING HIS  
DISCUSSION WITH NPC LEADERSHIP, BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED  
TO RETURN FOR MEETINGS THE WEEK BEFORE OPENING  
CEREMONIES IN AUGUST 2008. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT  
MEMBERS OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE WOULD BE  
IN CHINA FOR PART OF THE GAMES.

¶14. (U) SENATOR THAD COCHRAN CONGRATULATED LIU ON  
CHINA'S INVESTMENT TO MAKE THE OLYMPICS A SUCCESS. HE  
ADDED THAT THE FACT THAT CHINA HAD BEEN SELECTED TO  
HOST THE 2008 SUMMER GAMES WAS A GREAT COMPLIMENT. IT  
IS NOW UP TO THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP TO EXERCISE  
RESPONSIBILITY IN MAKING THE OLYMPICS A GREAT SUCCESS.  
SENATOR RICHARD BURR CONCURRED, NOTING THAT THE  
AMERICAN PEOPLE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE BEIJING  
2008 GAMES, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHINA TO PRESENT ITSELF  
TO THE WORLD AND FOR THE WORLD'S GREATEST ATHLETES TO  
COMPETE.

#### PARTICIPANTS

#### ¶15. (U) U.S. PARTICIPANTS:

SENATOR TED STEVENS  
AMBASSADOR CLARK T. RANDT, JR.  
SENATOR PATTY MURRAY  
SENATOR THAD COCHRAN  
SENATOR ARLEN SPECTER  
SENATOR MARK DAYTON  
SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER  
SENATOR NORM COLEMAN  
SENATOR RICHARD BURR  
EMBASSY OLYMPICS COORDINATOR  
EMBASSY NOTETAKER  
INTERPRETER

#### CHINESE PARTICIPANTS:

BOCOG CHAIRMAN LIU QI  
NPC FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN LU CONGMIN  
BOCOG VICE CHAIRMAN WANG WEI  
CHINESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON COUNSELOR CHEN GUOMIN  
NPC FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE DDG HONG YINGCHUN  
NOTETAKERS  
INTERPRETER

¶16. (U) THIS CABLE WAS CLEARED BY CODEL STEVENS.  
RANDT